



FAMILY HISTORY MOMENTS

Treasure in tombstones

I could not believe my eyes. All the tombstones in the cemetery had my family name. I had found a treasure: a family cemetery with an entire hill full of at least 150 tombstones.

I have been doing genealogy work for 10 years and know that temple work is very important. One summer, my family and I had the opportunity to visit the city in Japan where my ancestors came from. In search of family records, we went to the courthouse and library and even visited cemeteries around the area but could not find any information about them. My husband and I were very disappointed since we had come all the way from America.

I asked my husband to take me home. It was getting late, and the sun was just going down. What occurred next was the beginning of a miracle.

When we left the cemetery, we headed for the freeway to return to my parents' home, but traffic hindered us from entering it. My husband got frustrated and decided to take a different route. As he made several right turns, we came upon a cemetery we had not previously visited.

My husband asked whether I wanted to stop. I suggested that he just go slow enough for us to see the tombstone names. As we were passing, I saw my grandmother's surname on a tombstone. I quickly asked him to stop the car. As we got out, I was stunned to see my grandmother's family name on each stone.

Some of them were very new and easy to read; some were covered by moss and dark spots so that I couldn't read the names. On the side of each marker, all the information about their children was given: birth date, death date, marriage date, spouse's name.

Since my husband and children couldn't read Japanese, I had to do all the writing. My family would go ahead of me and wash off the tombstones. Some of them were covered by tall grass which we cut down to find lovely tombstones that nobody had been taking care of.

As I began copying the names, I felt that truly we had been guided to this place. We had met with discouragement and disappointment on our trip. Yet I somehow felt like the people who were waiting for us to do their temple work had led us to this cemetery in Japan so that their ordinances could be performed in sacred temples. — **Keiko Teshima Fuller, Rancho Reata Ward, Kennewick Washington Stake**

Another in a series of "Family History Moments."

Illustration by John Clark

Church News 18 Mar 2000

Temple landscapers honored

CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND

The landscaping firm that landscaped the grounds for the Preston England Temple, dedicated in 1998, has won the prestigious Grand Award from the British Association of Landscape Industries for an unequalled three straight years.

The firm, Living Landscapes Limited, won the award once again over a record 90 entries with its winning temple project in Chorley, Lancashire.

The three-year project, conducted by nursery manager David Lawson, maintenance supervisor Paul Williams, construction supervisor Jim Lawson and managing director David Crabtree, included planting 380 semi-mature trees, 38,000 shrubs and lawn areas covering the six-acre site.

Concert benefits neonatal unit

NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA

The Newcastle Australia Stake in New South Wales was recognized recently by community leaders for its assistance in helping with the purchase of vital equipment for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the John Hunter Children's Hospital here.

The stake sponsored a 1999 benefit concert, performed by the BYU-Hawaii Jazz ensemble. The concert was held in Newcastle and raised money for the children's hospital volunteer auxiliary, "Kid's Club."

The money from the jazz concert allowed the "Kid's Club" to purchase an ultra sound probe and special heating blankets that are vital instruments in caring for premature babies. The probe allows doctors to examine tiny babies in their cribs. Prior to this instrument being available, babies had to be transported — which for young and tender infants was extremely dangerous, said Frank Rigby, president of the "Kid's Club."

In recognition of the stake's contribution, Mr. Rigby presented Brian Hill, Newcastle Australia Stake president, with an engraved plaque. Mr. Rigby said that the stake has helped and will help many young families and babies through this assistance.

'Crop Walk' helps stop hunger

AUSTIN, TEXAS

More than 1,000 Church members from 25 wards or branches here participated March 4 in a community fund-raiser to help stop hunger both locally and globally. "Crop Walk" provides food and other relief supplies, refugee assistance, preventive health care, improvements in food production, and development of safe water resources in more than 80 countries. The organization also supports local agencies that serve hungry people in Austin.

Before the event the three stake presidents in the area encouraged members to not only contribute to the effort, but to also get involved physically by being visible in the community. In past years, 150 to 400 Church members have participated in the walk.

Readers from around the world are invited to submit news items and photos for this feature on Church events worldwide. Submissions should include a telephone number of someone who can be contacted for additional information. Items should be mailed to Church News, "From Around the World," attention Sarah Jane Weaver, P.O. Box 1257, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84110. Fax number: (801) 237-2524. Internet E-mail: sarah@desnews.com